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AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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ATTENTION IAA,IPS, IBS, VOA

CAPE TOWN FOR : EMBASSY

IN EARLY EDITORIAL COMMENT ON PRIME MINISTER VORSTER'S SPEECH AT WINDHOEK YESTERDAY ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA, THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS HAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT MR. VORSTER HAS TAKEN A CONCILIATORY STANCE. THE JOHANNESBURG EVENING 'STAR' COMMENTED:"MR. VORSTER'S WINDHOEK SPEECH MAY NOT HAVE BEEN SPECTACULAR, BUT IT CERTAINLY WAS DEFINITIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ATTITUDE TO THE PRINCIPLES INVOLVED IN HER DISPUTE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS OVER SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

" SOUTH AFRICA AGREES WITH BOTH THE UN AND THE ORGANISATION FOR AFRICAN UNITY ON THE 'INTERNATIONAL STATUS' OF THE TERRITORY. SOUTH AFRICA ACCEPTS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL PEOPLE--IRRESPECTIVE OF COLOUR-- SHOULD BE PROMOTED AND THAT THE PEOPLE OF SWA SHOULD EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT FREELY AND QUICKLY. MR. VORSTER IS PREPARED TO 'EXCHANGE VIEWS' WITH AN OAU COMMITTEE AND HE IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE HIS DIALOGUE WITH THE UN. THE SPEECH AS A WHOLE WAS CONCILIATORY AND IT INDICATED INCREASING URGENCY IN THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION TO THE SWA 'PROBLEM'.

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SET AGAINST THIS, MR. VORSTER MADE IT CLEAR THAT SOUTH AFRICA DID

NOT ACCEPT UN SUPERVISION OF SWA, THAT IT DID NOT ACCEPT SWAPO AS THE LEGITIMATE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY AND THAT IT DID NOT ACCEPT AS A PRECONDITION THAT SWA SHOULD BE A UNITARY STATE."

NOTING THAT VIRTUALLY "NOTHING MR. VORSTER SAYS OR DOES WILL SATISFY THE VOCAL UN MAJORITY" THE STAR SUGGESTED THAT THE BEST THE PRIME MINISTER COULD AIM FOR IS "THE CONFIDENCE OF COUNTRIES LIKE THE UNITED STATES, FRANCE AND BRITAIN.... AND THE GOODWILL OF THE MORE MODERATE AND REALISTIC BLACK STATES." BUT, THE STAR WARNED:" CONTINUING CONFIDENCE AND GOODWILL WILL DEPEND DIRECTLY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS WITH WHICH MR. VORSTER CAN MATCH HIS WORDS WITH DEEDS, THE SPEED WITH WHICH PETTY APARTHEID DISAPPEARS IN SWA, THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY ARE SEEN TO BE FREELY EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION."

THE 'PRETORIA NEWS' UNDER THE HEADING "STORMS AHEAD ON SOUTH WEST" COMMENTS:

"IT IS A MEASURE OF THE GULF BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE WORLD ON THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA ISSUE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH IN WINDHOEK LAST NIGHT, GENERALLY REGARDED BY SOUTH AFRICANS AS STATESMANLIKE AND CONCILIATORY, SHOULD BE ALMOST CONTEMPTUOUSLY DISMISSED ABROAD AS TAKING THE MATTER NO FURTHER.

". BY ANY STANDARDS EXCEPT THOSE OF THE BLINDLY PREJUDICED UNITED NATIONS THIS IS UTTERLY UNTRUE. THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED THAT SOUTH AFRICA DOES NOT COVET THE TERRITORY, ACCEPTS THAT THE DESTINY OF ITS PEOPLES LIES IN THEIR OWN HANDS, IS ARRANGING A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE QUESTION, IS DISMANTLING RACIALLY DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES IN THE MEANTIME, IS WILLING TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND WOULD WELCOME UN AND ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY VISITS."

THE NEWS CONCLUDES:" THE PRIME MINISTER HAS DONE HIS BEST, BUT CLEARLY THERE ARE STORMS AHEAD AND OUR UN MEMBERSHIP REMAINS IN JEOPARDY."

AFRIKAANS LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS FELT MR. VORSTER HAD DEALT COMPRE-
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HENSIVELY WITH HIS CRITICS AND THAT THE NAMIBIAN BALL WAS NOW IN THEIR COURT." THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHO SEEK A SOLUTION IN PREFERENCE TO CONFRONTATION OVER THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA ISSUE WILL NECESSARILY HAVE TO ACCEPT THE PRIME MINISTER'S REASONED PROPOSALS," SAID BEELD (JOHANNESBURG) TODAY. MR. VORSTER, THE PAPER SAID, WAS PLAYING "AN OPEN HAND OF CARDS". DIE BURGER (CAPE TOWN) AGREED, SAYING MR. VORSTER'S POLICY STATEMENT WAS "FREE OF COLONIALIST OR RACIST OVERTONES."

DIE VADERLAND (JOHANNESBURG) SAID THAT "AS FAR AS THE REALLY
IMPORTANT
ISSUES ARE CONCERNED THERE IS NO CONFLICT IN PRETORIA'S INTENTIONS
FOR SOUTH WEST AFRICA AND THE DEMANDS OF THE UN AND THE OAU."
THIS PAPER CONCLUDED THAT SINCE MR. VORSTER HAD INVITED THE UN
AND THE OAU TO "WORK TOGETHER WITH HIM ON THE BASIC ISSUES,"
IT WAS "NOW UP TO THEM TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR REALIZM AND BONA FIDES."
REGARDS
PETERSON

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